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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,612	12/24/2003	Daniel W. Cushing	03-1090 (BOE 0467 PA)	1611

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ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C.
28333 TELEGRAPH RD.
SUITE 250
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034

EXAMINER

PIZIALI, ANDREW T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/707,612

Applicant(s)

CUSHING ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew T. Piziali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I, Species 1 of Species Group I, and Species A of Species Group II, in the reply filed on 6/30/2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 6-40 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention and/or species.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference signs mentioned in the description: Reference signs 14, 44, 48 and 66. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US Patent Application Publication 2004/0219855 to Tsotsis.

Regarding claims 1-2 and 4-5. Tsotsis discloses a two-layer composite material comprising a polyphenylsulfone substrate material and a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers substantially embedded within the substrate (see entire document including [0022], [0023], [0032], [0036], [0040] and Figure 3). It is noted that Tsotsis discloses that a substrate material may be bonded to one or both sides of the unidirectional fabric [0040]. It is also noted that Tsotsis discloses that the fibers can be taken from a creel containing multiple spools of (long) fibers [0022].

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Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of a polyphenylsulfone substrate material with substantially embedded long glass fibers, it appears that the structure taught by the applied prior art inherently possesses the claimed heat release property.

The Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977).

Regarding claim 2, Tsotsis discloses that glass fibers may comprise a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers [0022].

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the applicant claims that the composite material is for use in a specific component. It is noted that a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. See *In re Casey*, 370 F.2d 576, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 939, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). Therefore, considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially

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identical to the claimed composite in terms of substrate material and embedded fibers, it appears that the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use.

6. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over USPN 5,014,755 to Bompard et al. (hereinafter referred to as Bompard).

Regarding claims 1-2 and 4-5, Bompard discloses a two-layer composite material comprising a polyphenylsulfone substrate material and a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers substantially embedded within the substrate (see entire document including column 2, line 58 through column 3, line 19 and Figure 1).

Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of a polyphenylsulfone substrate material with substantially embedded long glass fibers, it appears that the structure taught by the applied prior art inherently possesses the claimed heat release property.

Regarding claim 2, Bompard discloses that glass fibers may comprise a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers (column 2, line 58 through column 3, line 6).

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the applicant claims that the composite material is for use in a specific component. Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of substrate material and embedded fibers, it appears that the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication 2004/0219855 to Tsotsis in view of USPN 5,319,003 to Gomez et al. (hereinafter referred to as Gomez).

Regarding claims 1-5. Tsotsis discloses a two-layer composite material comprising a polyphenylsulfone substrate material and a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers substantially embedded within the substrate (see entire document including [0022], [0023], [0032], [0036], [0040] and Figure 3). It is noted that Tsotsis discloses that a substrate material may be bonded to one or both sides of the unidirectional fabric [0040]. It is also noted that Tsotsis discloses that the fibers can be taken from a creel containing multiple spools of (long) fibers [0022].

Tsotsis is silent with regards to specific glass fibers, therefore, it would have been obvious to look to the prior art for conventional glass fibers. Gomez provides this conventional teaching showing that it is known in the resin/fiber composite art to use s-type or e-type glass fibers (see entire document including column 2, lines 60-68 and column 3, lines 28-31). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the glass fibers from s-type or e-type glass fibers, as taught by Gomez, motivated by the expectation of successfully practicing the invention of Tsotsis.

Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of a polyphenylsulfone substrate material with substantially embedded long e-type or s-type glass fibers, it appears that the structure taught by the applied prior art inherently possesses the claimed heat release property.

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Regarding claim 2, Tsotsis discloses that glass fibers may comprise a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers [0022].

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the applicant claims that the composite material is for use in a specific component. Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of substrate material and embedded fibers, it appears that the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use.

8. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,014,755 to Bompard in view of USPN 5,319,003 to Gomez.

Regarding claims 1-2 and 4-5. Bompard discloses a two-layer composite material comprising a polyphenylsulfone substrate material and a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers substantially embedded within the substrate (see entire document including column 2, line 58 through column 3, line 19 and Figure 1).

Bompard is silent with regards to specific glass fibers, therefore, it would have been obvious to look to the prior art for conventional glass fibers. Gomez provides this conventional teaching showing that it is known in the resin/fiber composite art to use s-type or e-type glass fibers (see entire document including column 2, lines 60-68 and column 3, lines 28-31).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the glass fibers from s-type or e-type glass fibers, as taught by Gomez, motivated by the expectation of successfully practicing the invention of Bompard.

Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of a polyphenylsulfone substrate material with substantially

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embedded long e-type or s-type glass fibers, it appears that the structure taught by the applied prior art inherently possesses the claimed heat release property.

Regarding claim 2, Bompard discloses that glass fibers may comprise a plurality of unidirectional long glass fibers (column 2, line 58 through column 3, line 6).

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the applicant claims that the composite material is for use in a specific component. Considering that the composite taught by the applied prior art is substantially identical to the claimed composite in terms of substrate material and embedded fibers, it appears that the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use.

Conclusion

9. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to the use of polyphenylsulfone substrate materials and glass fibers in composite materials:

USPN 5,120,597 to Takimoto et al.

(see entire document including column 2, lines 35-55)

USPN 5,258,445 to Sperk, Jr. et al.

(see entire document including column 12, lines 50-68 & column 17, lines 28-59)

10. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to the use of polyphenylsulfone substrate materials in aircraft interior parts:

USPN 6,242,638 to Lin et al.

(see entire document including column 1, lines 4-14 and lines 57-67)

USPN 6,673,872 to van Beek et al.

(see entire document including column 6, lines 60-67)

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew T. Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-1541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

atp

gtp 8/4/05
ANDREW T. PIZIALI
PATENT EXAMINER